



HOLSTEIN ASSOCIATION USA

The World's Largest Dairy Breed Association

Established 1885

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Breed Characteristics

The Holstein Breed History

Historical Leaders for Milk Production

Holstein Breed Characteristics

VIEWED 03-16-2011

Holstein cattle are most quickly recognized by their distinctive color markings and outstanding milk production.

Physical Characteristics

Holsteins are large, stylish animals with color patterns of black and white or red and white. A healthy Holstein calf weighs 90 pounds or more at birth. A mature Holstein cow weighs about 1,500 pounds and stands 58 inches tall at the shoulder. Holstein heifers can be bred at 13 months of age, when they weigh about 800 pounds. It is desirable to have Holstein females calve for the first time between 23 and 26 months of age. Holstein gestation is approximately nine months. While some cows may live considerably longer, the average productive life of a Holstein is approximately four years.

Milk Production

The 2009 average actual production for all U.S. Holstein herds that were enrolled in production-testing programs and eligible for genetic evaluations was 23,151 pounds of milk, 842 pounds of butterfat and 711 pounds of protein per year.

Top producing Holsteins milked three times a day have been known to produce over 72,000 pounds of milk in 365 days.

Superior Performance

Holstein dairy cattle dominate this country's milk production industry. The reason for their popularity is clear: unexcelled production, greater income over feed costs, unequaled genetic merit, and adaptability to a wide range of environmental conditions. Added up, this means more profit for the dairy producer who milks Holsteins. This point becomes even clearer when you consider that nine of every 10 dairy producers currently milk Holsteins.

Nineteen Million Registered Holsteins

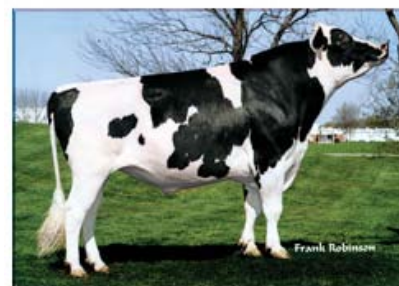
More than 19 million animals are registered in the Holstein Association's herdbook. The ancestry of most of these animals can be traced to animals originally imported from the Netherlands.

Holsteins identified with the Association account for nearly 20 percent of all U.S. dairy cattle. The upper end of this population is looked upon as a source of superior breeding stock, providing genetics for the dairy industry worldwide.

Click here to read
about the
profitability of
U.S. Registered Holsteins



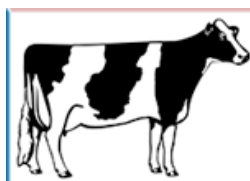
Modern Mature Holstein Cow



Modern Mature Holstein Bull



The Ideal Holstein Cow



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